



Iowa Department of Human Services

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INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO.1400

DATE: July 8, 2014

TO: Iowa Medicaid Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waiver Providers, Intermediate Care Facilities for persons with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/ID) and Targeted Case Managers

FROM: Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS), Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME)

RE: Listening Sessions to Select a Core Standardized Assessment (CSA) Tool for Persons Receiving Brain Injury Waiver Services

EFFECTIVE: Immediately

The IME, on behalf of the Balancing Incentive Program (BIP), announces plans to conduct statewide listening sessions to engage Iowa Medicaid members with brain injuries, their family members, providers, case managers and advocacy groups. A listening session is a meeting in which background information is provided and participants have the opportunity for discussion and to provide feedback to the department on key topics. The purpose of these listening sessions is to solicit input regarding the selection of an appropriate core standardized assessment tool to measure the supports needed for a person with a brain injury to live successfully in a community setting of their choice.

Session times and locations will be announced on the CSA section of the [BIP webpage](#)¹. At least five sessions in different locations are planned throughout the state and will include evening sessions. Stakeholders will be asked to provide feedback regarding important key factors to consider in selecting an assessment tool. Written comments may also be submitted by email to DHSCoreStandardizedAssessments@dhs.state.ia.us.

Information gathered at the listening sessions, and through written submissions, will be used to inform the selection of an assessment tool. The department will announce the selection of the assessment tool after the decision has been made. To meet the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) requirements, a standardized assessment tool must capture data on specific domains and topics so data from the assessment can become part of a core data set (CDS). The table below is from the BIP Implementation Manual and describes the five domains for which states must be able to provide the CDS to ensure the completion of a valid standardized assessment:

¹ <http://dhs.iowa.gov/ime/about/initiatives/BIPP/CSA>

The Five Domains

Domain	Topics
1. Activities of Daily Living	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eating• Bathing• Dressing• Hygiene• Toileting• Mobility• Positioning• Transferring• Communicating
2. Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (not required for children)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preparing Meals• Transportation• Housework• Managing Money• Shopping• Telephone Use• Managing Medications• Employment
3. Medical Conditions/Diagnoses	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• List conditions and diagnoses
4. Cognitive Function and Memory/Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cognitive Function• Judgment/Decision-Making• Memory/Learning
5. Behavior Concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Injurious Behavior• Destructive Behavior• Socially Offensive Behaviors• Uncooperative Behavior• Other Serious Behavior

The 2013 Health and Human Services Appropriations bill Senate File 446 directed DHS to contract with an independent entity to conduct a stakeholder engagement process and perform the selected core standardized assessments. Telligen, Inc. was the vendor selected to implement the Supports Intensity Scale® (SIS) for persons with intellectual disabilities and chosen core standardized assessments for other populations served by the Iowa Medicaid HCBS waiver programs.

As the BIP progresses in implementing standardized assessments across other populations served by HCBS Waivers, additional listening sessions will be scheduled during the next nine months and information regarding dates, times and locations will be posted on the CSA section of the [BIP webpage](http://dhs.iowa.gov/ime/about/initiatives/BIPP/CSA)².

Questions can be submitted to DHSCoreStandardizedAssessment@dhs.state.ia.us.

² <http://dhs.iowa.gov/ime/about/initiatives/BIPP/CSA>